

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS National War Memorial Encampment

Spokesperson: TBC

Resource person: Mathieu Latourelle

Date: 2020-10-14

Statement:

The National War Memorial is an important monument that recognizes the sacrifices of all Canadian Armed Forces personnel who have served Canada.

Since July 2, 2020, protesters have occupied an encampment on the National War Memorial site. During this period, those in the encampment have been informed that camping and sleeping are not permitted on the site and have been asked to leave.

While the Government of Canada respects the right to participate in peaceful demonstrations, on October 15, we officially notified individuals on the site that they must leave the premises through a written notice.

On October 17, 2020, with the assistance of the Ottawa Police Service, the encampment on the National War Memorial site was removed.

Temporary fencing around the grounds has been installed so that the site can be properly restored in advance of the upcoming anniversary of the death of Corporal Nathan Carillo and the National Remembrance Day Ceremony, which are important reminders of the significance of this site. In addition, annual winterization work of the site will be completed.

Q.1 Why does Ottawa Police Services have jurisdiction over the site as opposed to the RCMP?

The National War Memorial is not part of the Parliamentary Precinct, nor is it an area that falls under the RCMP National Division's purview. As the police force of jurisdiction for the National War Memorial, the Ottawa Police Services (OPS) is responsible for enforcing all laws and regulations – including the *Public Works Nuisance Regulations*.

OPS also holds the right and responsibility to enforce the *Provincial Trespass Act* (Ontario) which allows them to fine and enforce the act if the individuals

occupying the site do not have express permission from the occupier to be on the premises.

Q.2 What steps will PSPC take if the campers return to the National War Memorial?

While we respect the right to participate in peaceful demonstrations, camping and sleeping on the National War Memorial is not permitted under the *Public Works Nuisances Regulations*. Therefore, anyone who attempts to engage in these actions will be asked to vacate the premises by PSPC staff. If the individuals in question refuse to vacate the monument, PSPC will engage Ottawa Police Services.

Q.3 What will happen to the personal belongings of the campers? How will they be able to retrieve them?

Should the campers not remove all of their personal belongings from the site, PSPC has made arrangements for the removal, cataloguing and storage of any personal property left behind. The campers will be provided the coordinates of a location for the retrieval of any of their items.

Q.4 Is the decision to remove the encampment linked to the recent harassment incidents involving journalists and parliamentarians in the area?

The decision to remove the encampment is unrelated to the recent incidents involving journalists and parliamentarians in the area.

While we respect the right to participate in peaceful demonstrations, we also have a duty to ensure that the National War Memorial is appropriately maintained as a deeply symbolic and important monument that recognizes the sacrifices of all Canadian Armed Forces personnel who have served Canada.

The upcoming anniversary of the death of Corporal Nathan Cirillo and the National Remembrance Day ceremonies are important reminders of the significance of this site. Therefore, the encampment is being removed to conduct important work that needs to be undertaken to ensure the site can be properly restored for these days of remembrance and that subsequent work can be completed to prepare the site for the winter.

PSPC is aware of the recent incidents involving journalists and parliamentarians in the area and is working with law enforcement and Parliamentary partners to ensure the continued safety and security of parliamentarians and visitors within the Parliamentary Precinct through enhanced security efforts.

Q5. The protesters have been in place since July 2, 2020, why remove them now?

Since July 2, 2020, protesters have occupied a section of the National War Memorial despite being informed that no camping and sleeping is permitted on the site as per the *Public Works Nuisances Regulations*.

The upcoming anniversary of the death of Corporal Nathan Cirillo and the National Remembrance Day ceremonies are quickly approaching and are very important to the community. In light of this, the time has come to remove the encampment so that important work can take place to ensure the site is properly restored for these days of remembrance and that subsequent work can be completed to prepare the site for the winter.

Q6. Can the campers return to the site following Remembrance Day if their protest continues to be peaceful?

No. While we respect the right to participate in peaceful demonstrations, anyone who choose to camp or sleep at the National War Memorial, in contravention of the *Public Works Nuisances Regulations*, will be asked to vacate the premises by PSPC staff. If the individuals in question refuse to vacate the monument, PSPC will engage Ottawa Police Services.

Q7. Will you be allowing other similar protests to take place on the site in the future?

While we respect the right to participate in peaceful demonstrations, any similar protests on the site that contravene the *Public Works Nuisances Regulations* will be asked to vacate the premises by PSPC staff. If the individuals in question refuse to vacate the monument, PSPC will engage Ottawa Police Services.

Q8. What happened to protestors in the encampment?

Three individuals were onsite this morning and either left or were removed peacefully. For additional details please contact the Ottawa Police Services

Q9. What will happen to the personal belongings of the campers?

Items left behind will be removed today (Saturday) and will be catalogued and stored so that owners can retrieve them at a later date.

Q10. Was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier damaged by the campers?

The helmet on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was vandalized. PSPC repaired the monument this morning. An investigation led by Ottawa Police Services is underway.

Q11. There were other campers on the site. What happened to them?

There were a small number of people on the site who were not part of the protest. Federal and municipal partners worked together to offer these individuals social support services, and they left the site voluntarily.

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